



**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
September 3, 2008**

This meeting of the Maryland Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 3, at 10:30AM. The members met at MDOT in the Board Room.

Acting Chair Mario VillaSanta chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 10:36AM. The minutes from August and September were approved.

Mr. Beam reported that there were no dedication issues for the Commission at the time of the meeting.

The Commission then heard from Mr. Bob Healey of the State Highway Administration's Office of Bridge Design. Mr. Healey presented an extensive program regarding the SHA Bridge Replacement and Maintenance efforts. (available upon request.) Mr. VillaSanta and Mr. Alston asked why the condition of bridges in Baltimore City was poor compared to other area bridges. Mr. Healey responded that SHA does not have jurisdiction over Baltimore City, but does serve as a pass-through for highway funding. Mr. Ellis asked specifically about the Rt. 50 bridge into lower Ocean City and what the plan of action was. Mr. Healey responded that SHA is in the process of examining alternatives, but redecking and replacing are the only viable short-term solutions, and in the current fiscal climate, other options may not be possible. Mr. Litrell asked about the repairs being conducted on the Bay Bridge and whether an epoxy was being used in place of the existing fastening materials. Mr. Healey said that he did not know, as the Bay Bridge is the property of the Maryland Transportation Authority. Mr. Litrell also asked about the sinkholes in Western Maryland affecting state highways and Mr. Healey responded that those are a function of geography and geology. SHA works hard to mitigate them, but there is no way to entirely prevent them. Mr. Ellis asked about using sand instead of salt on bridges to slow some of the corrosion on the steel of the bridges. Mr. Healey responded that sand would not be as effective as salt and that motorists in this area are used to seeing "bare" pavement, and that it could affect driver confidence. The Commission then thanked Mr. Healey for his presentation.

Mr. Beam reported that the next meeting would be held October 1<sup>st</sup> at BWI Airport. More information will follow in the next mailing.

Hearing no further issues, the Commission adjourned at 11:31AM.